

REPLY TO:

- ☐ 135 HART SENATE OFFICE BUILDING
WASHINGTON, DC 20510-1501
(202) 224-3744
e-mail: grassley.senate.gov/contact.cfm
- ☐ 721 FEDERAL BUILDING
210 WALNUT STREET
DES MOINES, IA 50309-2140
(515) 288-1145
- ☐ 150 1ST AVENUE NE
SUITE 325
CEDAR RAPIDS, IA 52401
(319) 363-6832

United States Senate

CHARLES E. GRASSLEY

WASHINGTON, DC 20510-1501
September 20, 2011

REPLY TO:

- ☐ 103 FEDERAL COURTHOUSE BUILDING
320 6TH STREET
SIOUX CITY, IA 51101-1244
(712) 233-1860
- ☐ 210 WATERLOO BUILDING
531 COMMERCIAL STREET
WATERLOO, IA 50701-5497
(319) 232-6657
- ☐ 131 WEST 3RD STREET
SUITE 180
DAVENPORT, IA 52801-1419
(563) 322-4331
- ☐ 307 FEDERAL BUILDING
8 SOUTH 6TH STREET
COUNCIL BLUFFS, IA 51501-4204
(712) 322-7103

President Barack Obama
The White House
1600 Pennsylvania Avenue, N.W.
Washington, DC 20500

Dear Mr. President,

A year ago, in your address to the U.N. General Assembly, you spoke of efforts toward peace in the Middle East by saying, "We can waste more time by carrying forward an argument that will not help a single Israeli or Palestinian child achieve a better life. We can do that. Or, we can say that this time will be different."

Yet, the Palestinian leadership intends in just a few days to press forward with UN recognition of a Palestinian state. The creation of a Palestinian state and its boundaries with Israel must be determined at the negotiation table, not imposed on them or determined in a unilateral action or by precondition. It's clear that unilateral actions, either concessions asked of Israel, or demands made by the Palestinians, are not helpful to the peace process and will not bring about a lasting, secure peace.

Israel and the United States share the goal of a two state solution through negotiations. Israeli Prime Minister Netanyahu has offered to renew direct negotiations with Palestinian President, Mahmoud Abbas. It's time to be unequivocal with the Palestinians. They will not achieve statehood through unilateral actions apart from the negotiating table. It's also time to stop providing preconditions to the Palestinians that they can then use before even sitting down to the negotiating table with Israel.

The United States has no stronger ally anywhere in the world than Israel. I encourage you to redirect your administration's failed policies and use your opportunity at the United Nations to reassure our ally that the United States stands with them, and that we will strongly oppose any unilateral move to declare a Palestinian state outside of a negotiated peace agreement.

Thank you for your consideration.

Sincerely,


Charles E. Grassley
United States Senator

RANKING MEMBER,
JUDICIARY

Committee Assignments:

AGRICULTURE
BUDGET
FINANCE

CO-CHAIRMAN,
INTERNATIONAL NARCOTICS
CONTROL CAUCUS